This copy is Signed by the author

By David M. Welch
Illustrated by Heather Riley
Darwin soon realised that the floor was not a safe place for geckos. Thump! Thump! Thump! Someone's feet nearly squashed Darwin.
A noisy vacuum cleaner almost sucked him up.
The grey cat with sharp claws wanted to eat him!

Darwin quickly learned that the safest place was on the wall.

Chuck-chuck-chuck
Click-click-click
Darwin Gecko makes his sound

Sticking feet
On the wall
Way up high above the ground

Darwin ran along the ground. Then up,
People living in northern Australia know the familiar sound of house geckos, calling out in the night with their loud “chuck-chuck-chuck” or “click-click-click” sound.

In this book, Darwin Gecko is a house gecko who lives in Darwin, in the Northern Territory of Australia. His first name is “Darwin” and his surname is “Gecko”, so his full name is “Darwin Gecko”. He is a native Australian gecko, usually living outside on trees, under rocks or in caves.

There are about sixty species of geckos native to Australia. Geckos are small lizards, generally soft-bodied, nocturnal (active at night), have no eyelids, lay two eggs at a time, and may live on the ground or in trees. Many species can run up smooth surfaces, and are able to drop off their tails at will.

Several species have adapted to living in houses, when they are called “house geckos”. The native house gecko in northern Australia is Gehyra australis, also known as a Northern Dettle or just Dettle. (Gehyra is pronounced Ge-hy-ra and Dettle is pronounced de-tell-a.) This is generally a pale, smooth gecko, and Darwin Gecko is one of these.
Darwin Gecko (*Gehyra australis*) showing its smooth body.